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Jamestown, In.
Dec. 29, 2004

2005 JAN - 6 AM 11:16

Mr. Riley Darnell
Secretary of State
Tennessee State Capital
Nashville, In.

TRA DOCKET ROOM

R.E. 2004 Docket # 04-00166 and 04-002211

Dear Sir;

As a family and friend of inmates at Tennessee prisons, I am writing to encourage you to vote NO to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority dockets # above 04-00166 and 04-002211. If approved, this would allow higher rates for calls from inmates at Tenn. jails and prisons. I am urging you to support the Children and Families of prisoners and vote against any increase in costs and possible decrease in length of time of calls from a state or local prison.

Families & friends of Tenn. prisoners are the forgotten victims of crimes, who often suffer in silence. Our families are primarily responsible for telephone and expenditures of incarcerated loved ones. It is therefore very important for elected and appointed government officials to protect our interests.

We cannot afford to stop improving our family relationships. Healthy family bonds during imprisonment help to reduce repeated incarcerations and ultimately make our communities safer for all Tennessee families.

Affordable local and long distance calls are especially critical to families who are not physically or financially able to visit prisons that are often in remote locations where public transportation is not available and over night accommodations and meals would drive up the costs. Another concern is about the current telephone provider, Global-Tel-Link, who lacks accountability to its customers. We insist that improved customer service and better billing services are required of all telephone service providers to prisons and jails in Tennessee.

As concerned family and friends of Tennessee prisoners, we will be watching these issues very closely. I earnestly hope you will support us, the family & friends of Tennessee prisoners and not the interest of big business.

Sincerely,
Ruth Z. Owens & Judy G. Beatty
David L. Owens
James Taylor

January 3, 2005

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2005 JAN -6 AM 11:16

T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

Re: Docket #04-00166 and #04-00211

Dear Sir or Madame:

I am a family member of an incarcerated person. Families not only financially and emotionally support our incarcerated loved one but also our children, parents, and extended families just as families who do not deal with incarceration. Frequently the travel distance to the prison and cost to visit is so great that phone calls and letters may be our only contact for many months. Additional costs have risen since families have lost the ability to provide necessities to inmates, as inmates must now purchase everything from a general provider. If an inmate has the ability to earn a wage it is so minimal to not cover the costs of incidentals. The family must make-up the difference.

In order to maintain the healthiest family environment possible it is critical for families to talk regularly. Children need to hear the voice of a parent, brother or sister, or grandparent. They need to hear the advice, the concern, and the loneliness only a voice can convey. They need to discuss issues only family can understand. It is important to maintain this connection at a reasonable rate.

I would also encourage the TRA to implement calls made to cellular phones. Competition has driven the cost and convenience of cellular service so low many people no longer have land lines. The current system forces the family to have a land line and be at home at a specific time when the inmate can call. This adds further pressure on the family in case a call is missed or the prison phones are not operating. Call quality is also a big issue. Frequently phones do not work, there is static, calls are dropped and must be redialed at additional cost to the family.

Families of Tennessee prisoners are the forgotten victims of crime. Innocent of any wrong doing, they too often suffer in silence. It is therefore very important that when elected or appointed government officials hear of their concerns they should know that it is an important issue that can affect the well being of the family.

As a part of your fulfilling the Mission of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority I urge you to strongly consider the impact your decision on docket #04-00166 and #04-00211 will have on children, families, friends, and community-based organizations that promote healthy family bonds with inmates. Please vote NO to higher costs and shorted calls from a jail or prison in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Carey-Smith

Cynthia Carey-Smith

HC 71 Box 87 B1

Graysville, TN 37338

FAX

January 6, 2005

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T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

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OFFICE OF
PAT MILLER

JAN 06 2004

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY

To: Pat Miller, Chair
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
615 253-3861

From: Karen Fletcher Baker
2104 Dunmire Hollow Road
Waynesboro TN 38485
Phone 931 722-5096

Re: Docket #0400166 and 04-00211

I am writing to ask the TRA to vote NO to higher costs and shorter calls from a jail or prison in Tennessee.

Most families of prisoners live with extremely limited incomes, especially those with children -- children who especially need to stay in touch with their parent in prison.

Families of prisoners are the ones who suffer the most when the cost of telephone calls from prisons and jails is increased.

Making it more difficult for families to stay in touch does not benefit anyone -- the mothers, fathers, wives, children, and other relatives; the prisoners and the prison staff; or society at large, which will have to integrate most of these prisoners back into our larger society at some time in the future. Prisoners who maintain ties with their families are much more likely to succeed as citizens when they are released.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

From: <IMAGENE143@aol.com>
To: <greg.mitchell@state.tn.us>
Date: 1/4/2005 2:34:12 PM
Subject: tra docket # 04-00211 and#04-00166

RECEIVED

2005 JAN -6 AM 11:16

T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

Date-01-04-2005

Re,Docket# 04-00166 and#04-00211

Dear Sir or Madame,

Families of Tennessee prisoners are the forgotten victims of crime. Innocent of any wrong doing, they too often suffer in silence. It is therefore very important that when elected or appointed government officials hear of their concerns they should know that it is an important issue that can affect the well-being of the family.

As a part of your fulfilling the Mission of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority I urge you to strongly consider the impact your decision on docket#04-00166 and 04-00211 will have on children, families, friends and community-based organizations that promote healthy family bonds with inmates. Please vote NO to higher costs and shorter calls from a jail or prison in TENNESSEE. I am raising my daughter's daughter and that is the biggest bond that they have is to be able to talk and study her school work every night. Why should an innocent little girl have to be a victim for something she had nothing to do with? Please, before you make the decision, put your own little girl or boy in her place. They may have done wrong, but we still love them.

Sincerely,
Lillian Clevenger

Lillian Clevenger
123 Sycamore Rd
Greenbrier Tennessee 37073
615-643-1552